



# U. S. Representative Tom Allen

## *Biography*

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In 2002, the voters of Maine's First Congressional District re-elected Tom Allen to represent them in the 108th Congress. In January 2003, House Democratic leaders chose Tom for a coveted spot on the House Committee on Energy & Commerce.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, Tom was a member of the Armed Services Committee (HASC) and the Government Reform Committee. He was also a Democratic Whip at Large. In just his third term, Tom emerged as a national leader in developing legislation to reduce the price of prescription drugs for older Americans, clean up pollution from aging power plants and reform campaign finance laws.

Tom's top legislative priority in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress was H. R. 1400/S. 699, The Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act, legislation to provide older Americans access to the same discounts that HMOs and the federal government receive when they purchase prescription drugs. Tom also introduced legislation to address misleading pharmaceutical company advertising and promotion practices. H.R. 4832, The Prescription Drug Comparative Effectiveness Act of 2002 would provide funds to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to conduct studies on the comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs that are widely used by individuals eligible for Medicare or Medicaid. H.R. 4833, The Accuracy in Pharmaceutical Advertisements Act would give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to impose civil monetary penalties on repeat violators of rules against false or misleading advertising. (check out the special prescription drug page on Tom's website: <http://tomallen.house.gov>).

Tom introduced two major bills to curb air pollution. H. R. 1335, The Clean Power Plant Act, closes a loophole which allows older coal and oil-fired utilities to pollute our air nearly 30 years after passage of the Clean Air Act. The Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reduction Act, requires power plants and commercial and industrial boilers to reduce by 95 percent mercury emissions, which poison rivers, lakes and streams downwind.

Tom has devoted much of his legislative attention to matters involving Maine and the nation's children and families. His priorities include education, child care, health care and substance abuse. To combat declining student test scores, in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress Tom introduced H.R. 3702, The Recruit and Reward Math and Science Teachers Act, legislation to create scholarships for math and science graduate students who will teach in secondary schools.

In his first term, Tom garnered national attention as co-chair (with Arkansas Republican Asa Hutchinson) of a bipartisan freshman task force on campaign finance reform. Their Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, to ban "soft money," tighten financial disclosure rules and regulate so-called "issue advocacy" ads in political campaigns, was one of the two major bipartisan reform bills in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Born in Portland, Maine in 1945, Tom attended Portland's public schools and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1967. After earning a B.Phil in Politics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, Tom worked for Senator Edmund S. Muskie and then attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1974. While working in a Portland law firm for 20 years, Tom was active in civic affairs. He served on the City Council and as Mayor of Portland. In 1968, Tom married his high school classmate, Diana Bell. They have two daughters, Gwen, 28, and Kate, 23.

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